Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawrangpur and Rajagada.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are being worked out by Government of Orissa.

Amendment to the Succession Act

463. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kerala has amended the provision of Succession Act prescribing that the Will executed by Christians also need not be probated and a discrimination that was in existence against the Christians was removed; and

(b) whether the Central Government also propose to take steps to amend the Indian Succession Act which provides the discriminatory condition that the Will executed by Christians must be probated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Government of Kerala has a proposal to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in its application to the State of Kerala for the purpose of excluding the Christians from the requirement of obtaining probate of a will. The said proposal which has been referred to the Central Goverment is receiving its attention.

(b) The question of undertaking any Parliamentary Legislation for amending the Indian Succession Act, 1925 will be considered by the Central Government as and when the necessary initiative from the Christian Community is received in this regard.

Involvement of Commanding Officer of Infantry in land scandal

464. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the involvement of the Commanding Officer of the Infantry Division located in the sensitive area of the Western border in the land cultivation scandal ignoring the security regulations have come to light recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the land scandal and what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no involvement of the Commanding Officer of the Infantry Division in the alleged land scandal. However, the Commanding Officer of ASC Battalion has been involved in certain irregularities regarding cultivation of Defence land at Amritsar. Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the officer.

Tourists abducted by Al-Faran Militant Outfit

465. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken for the release of four Western tourists who were abducted in July, 1995 from Pehelgam near Srinagar by Al-Faran militant outfit;

(b) whether the militants with the foreign tourists have been moving from place to place and authorities failed to trace them;

(c) what is the present position and by when they are likely to be released; and

(d) what is the present number of Afghan and other foreign militants in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir Valley and Doda and other areas of Jammu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The aim and effort of Government has been to try and bring about the safe release of the hostages, through a process of dialogue and persuation and by appealing to the sense of reason and humanity among those responsible for the abduction; and to desist from doing anything that could provide encouragement to further acts of terrorism including abduction. Close liaison and contact has also been maintained with the officials of the Missions of the concerned countries, whose nationals have been abducted. Their officials have also been facilitated to visit Srinagar in keeping with the policy of transparency. Statements have also been issued from time to time by almost all the militant/secessionist outfits in J&K, by the Governments of all the concerned countries and organisations like Amnesty International etc. condemning the incident and demanding release of the hostages. Simultaneously, the Government have avoided any precipitate action which could jeopardise the lives of the hostages. As the foreign tourists are still in the captivity of the abductors it is not possible to indicate as to when they will be released.

(d) It is not possible to give the precise number of foreign nationals/ mercenaries operating in the Valley or in the State. There are a number of militant outfits which have foreign mercenaries in their ranks which mainly include the Harkat-ul-Ansar, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Al-Burq, Tahreek-ul-Mujahideen etc. According to information available 328 foreign militants have been killed and 86 arrested till now in the State.

एड्स का मुकाबला करने के लिए मध्य प्रदेश के गैर सरकारी संगठनों को दी गई वित्तीय सहायता

466. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में जिलावार किस-किस गैर सरकारी संगठन को एड्स का मुकाबला करने के लिए वित्तीयं सहायता मिल रही है;

(ख) उन संगठनों को वर्ष 1991-92, 1992-93 और 1993-94 के दौरान कितनी धनराशि दी गई;

(ग) क्या एड्स के बारे में जागरूकता उत्पन्न करने में उनकी उपलब्धियों का कोई मूल्यांकन किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री ए० आर० अंतुले): (क) वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान एक गैर-सरकारी संस्था "शुरूआत" को मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा आर्थिक सहायता दी गई है।

(ख) वर्ष 1991-92, 1992-93 और 1993-94 के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में किसी भी एन०जी०ओ० को अनुदान नहीं दिया गया।

(ग) और (घ) एन जी०ओ० जो कि नुक्कड नाटक करते हैं के कार्य निष्पादन ने स्थानीय प्रचार माध्यम का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।

Plan for making Indian Air Force more effective

467. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for training and making the Indian Air Force more effective by outdating, updating and modernising its fleet;

(b) if so, the broad features of the plan; and